

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TO AMEND TITLE X, U.S.C. RELATING TO THE COMPENSATION OF RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place the following Senate Resolution from the State of Rhode Island into the RECORD.

SENATE RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO AMEND TITLE TEN, UNITED STATES CODE RELATING TO THE COMPENSATION OF RETIRED MILITARY

Whereas, American servicemen and women have dedicated their careers to protect the rights we all enjoy; and

Whereas, Career military personnel endured hardships, privation, the threat of death, disability and long separations from their families in service to our country; and

Whereas, Integral to the success of our military forces are those soldiers and sailors who have made a career of defending our great nation in peace and war from the revolutionary war to present day; and

Whereas, There exists gross inequity in the federal statutes that denies disabled career military equal rights to receive Veterans Administration disability compensation concurrent with receipt of earned military retired pay; and

Whereas, Legislation has been introduced in the United States Congress to remedy this inequity applicable to career military dating back to the nineteenth century; and

Whereas, The injustice concerns those veterans who are both retired with a minimum of 20 years, are denied concurrent receipt of hard earned military longevity retirement pay and Veterans Administration awards for service connected with disability; and

Whereas, Career military earn retirement based on longevity of twenty years for honorable and faithful service and rank at time of retirement; and

Whereas, Veterans administered compensations serve a different purpose from longevity retired pay and are intended to compensate for pain, suffering, disfigurement, chemicals, wound injuries and a loss earning ability and have a minimum requirement of 90 days of active duty; and

Whereas, The prevailing idea that military retirement pay is "free" is false. There is a contribution to retirement pay, which is calculated to reduce military base pay and retirement pay by approximately seven percent when pay and allowances are computed and approved by Congress; and

Whereas, Traditionally, a career military person receives a lower pay and retirement than his or her civilian counterpart and has invested a life of hardships and long hours without the benefit of overtime pay and lack of freedom of expression through the unions; and

Whereas, The Veterans Administration awards dependents allowances to disabled veterans with a thirty percent (30%) disability or more for each dependent, which allowances are increased with the amount of disability; and

Whereas, The Department of Defense deducts the entire amounts of dependents al-

lowance, essentially leaving the disabled military retiree with no dependents allowance and that extends the discrimination to the families of military longevity retirees; and

Whereas, It is unfair to require disabled military retirees to fund their own Veterans Administration compensation by deductions on a dollar for dollar basis in the Department of Defense; and

Whereas, No such deduction applies to similarly situated federal civil service or Congressional retirement benefits to receive Veterans Administration compensation; and

Whereas, A statutory change is necessary to correct this injustice and discrimination in order to insure that America's commitment to national and international goals be matched by the same allegiance to those who sacrificed on behalf of those goals; now therefore be it

*Resolved*, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby urges the United States Congress to amend title ten, United States Code relating to the compensation of retired military, permitting concurrent receipt of military retired pay and Veterans Administration compensation, including dependents allowances; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, Secretary of Defense, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Congress, Speaker of the House, Committee Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee and Veterans Affairs Committee, House Committee Chairman, National Security and Veterans Affairs Committee, and each member of the Rhode Island Delegation to Congress.

## IN MEMORY OF KIRK O'DONNELL

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the memory of Kirk O'Donnell, who passed away last week at the age of fifty-two. Throughout his three decades in public service, both as an aide to Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. and Boston Mayor Kevin White and as an advisor to some of our nation's most influential officials, Kirk served his country with an abundance of dignity and integrity that could be matched only by the fullness of his patriotism.

In sharp contrast to many of today's political "spin doctors" who nurture cynicism in exchange for votes, Kirk's wisdom rested in his ability to communicate his principled desire for a better America, a moral society with opportunity for all and poverty for none. His contributions toward achieving this end were immeasurable.

Kirk was also a very dear personal friend, Mr. Speaker. I worked closely with him when he served as counselor to Speaker O'Neill, but our friendship continued, and even grew warmer, after he left public service when Tip

O'Neill retired. He was committed to decency and fairness, and I had great respect for his compassion for the less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, Boston Globe columnist Thomas Oliphant wrote an eloquent tribute to Kirk O'Donnell that eloquently articulates the outstanding character traits that I and so many others admired in him. I submit Mr. Oliphant's column to be placed in the RECORD. I invite my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of Kirk O'Donnell and extending our heartfelt condolences to his wife of 26 years, Kathryn Holland O'Donnell, and his two children, Holly and Brendan.

[From the Boston Globe, Sept. 10, 1998]

HE STOOD FOR POLITICS AT ITS BEST

(By Thomas Oliphant)

WASHINGTON.—He was arguably the best mayor Boston never had, among a handful of people who mattered most to the turbulent city of the 1970s.

No one did more for the House of Representatives over the last generation who was never elected to it; no history of national affairs in the 1980s is complete without his large thumbprint.

The last four presidents have known all about his special gifts and felt their impact; the two Democrats (the completely different Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton) had more than one occasion to depend on them big time.

On an average day he could get your brother a fair shot at the police force, help repair Social Security, broker the biggest tax bill of modern times, keep the Big Dig's cash coming, and still make it home for supper.

All across the intersections where politics and government meet in the interests of real people, the shock and pain at Kirk O'Donnell's death over the Labor Day weekend is the only recent event to unite Republicans, congressional Democrats, and Clintonites in this season of shame and ugliness.

You'd think all this emotion concerned a senior statesman passing on after a long lifetime of service, the occasion for a proud-sad moment to celebrate a life lived magnificently.

But the shock and pain arrived like a rusty blade in the gut because O'Donnell was only 52; he did things in his 30s and 40s that big shots in their 60s never accomplish. But the best was still ahead of him, and the sky was the limit; if the Democrats ever elect another president, a Cabinet post or chief of the White House staff would have been lateral movements for him.

This is the kind of death that shakes your faith, making it all the more important to reaffirm it. And the fact is this blend of Dorchester and D.C., of Boston Latin and Brown was a walking reaffirmation of faith in the potential of public service, a shining example of the silent majority who don't broker votes for cash, check their principles at the front desk, ignore their families, welsh on their commitments, indulge their whims and their urges, lie, and shirk. His life demonstrates that at the end only two things matter—whether your word's any good and how you treat others.

Two stories: Kevin Hagen White gets the credit for discovering him in the early years of decentralized innovation and leadership

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and hope for the racially polarized town. By 1975, the young political junkie who could explain Boston by precinct or by parish was entrusted with White's third-term reelection campaign.

It was the roughest, ugliest, closest fight in modern Boston times. The people involved, despite all they've done since, still get together to tell the old stories and refight the old shouting matches. The one reputation that was enhanced by the bruising experience was O'Donnell's, for focusing like a laser beam on organizing the White vote and focusing on Joe Timilty's lack of a clear alternative.

After it was over and he was down in Washington with Tip O'Neill, it was increasingly clear that his former boss had lost his fastball. Again and again, from the shadows of the speaker's rooms in the Capitol, O'Donnell saw to Boston's interests. He would happily recount to me the stories of program formulas rejiggered to benefit the cities, of special items in appropriations bills (worth billions of dollars over time) as long as I understood that if I used his name in public he would rip my lungs out.

Just for the record, O'Donnell was more than enough of a city lover and urban scholar to know about subway analogies in politics. But he was the guy, in 1981, who called Social Security the third rail of American politics; few lines have been ripped off more. But he did it to make a point—that Ronald Reagan had touched it by reaching beyond his mandate to try to slash future benefits in a partisan initiative. With the help of the worst recession in 60 years, he and Speaker O'Neill pounced on that goof to effectively end the Reagan Revolution.

But that same skill was then put to use on the speaker's behalf to help broker a bipartisan repair job that has lasted 15 years and made the next stage of generational common sense possible. He was to Congress in the 1980s what Jim Baker was to the Reagan White House.

He was a big guy, with a big voice he rarely used except to laugh. Everyone trusted him. There are tears being shed today in saloons and salons, in boardrooms and in back rooms. Kirk O'Donnell's life demonstrates the power of the haunting challenge made famous by the Kennedys, that all of us can make a difference and that each of us should try.

#### HONORS REVEREND JUAN MARTINEZ FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Juan Martinez of New Haven, Connecticut. Reverend Martinez has spent thirty-six years developing and enriching his community, ministering to our souls and nourishing our spirits.

Reverend Martinez arrived in the United States from his native Puerto Rico in 1950, and served his country in our military in the Korean War. Upon his arrival in New Haven in 1962, he established the Pentecostal Church Door of Salvation. Through this church, Reverend Martinez has selflessly devoted himself to the Hispanic community and to the entire city of New Haven. He is the eldest Hispanic minister pastoring in New Haven, and serves as Executive Treasurer for the International

Latin American Council of Churches. He is the founder of the New Life Corporation Housing Development Corporation, and is the co-founder of the Asociacion Ministerial Evangelica Hispanica de New Haven.

Reverend Martinez has contributed so much to our New Haven that it is difficult to know how to begin to describe his dedication and service. He embodies the values of commitment to family and dedication to neighbors, and is a role model to us all. He is a powerful voice of justice and equality for the Hispanic community, and therefore for our city. He has worked with four mayors of New Haven to improve housing for the needy. He has organized an annual food drive, and founded a community youth and children's program which serves over 120 children, nurturing their minds, enriching their spirits, and giving them a safe place to play and learn.

For thirty-six years, Reverend Martinez has been a force in his community for all that is right and good. It is with great pride and honor that I join with his family, friends and community to say thank you and congratulations.

#### IN MEMORY OF CASPER BUONOCORE, JR. AND JOHN J. BRACKEN

#### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the memory of two brave police officers, Casper J. Buonocore, Jr., and John J. Bracken, who were killed in the line of duty twenty-five years ago. They are being honored today at the New Jersey Central Railroad Terminal at Liberty State Park. The City of Jersey City is celebrating the dedication of the Buonocore-Bracken Memorial Building at 60 Collard Street.

P.O. Buonocore, an NTF officer assigned to the West District Scooter Unit, was leaving the scene of a routine arrest on Armstrong and Ocean Avenues on September 12, 1973, when he was shot by a man on a roof and died at the Jersey City Medical Center the same day. The incident was triggered when another man refused to move a car that was double parked. During his tenure of almost three years, Buonocore was the recipient of a Commendation for Armed Robbery award and a Special Letter Class C Award.

P.O. Bracken, an NTF officer assigned to the East District Motorcycle Unit, was struck by a drunk driver who had run a stop sign on September 1, 1973. He died at the Jersey City Medical Center on September 12 of that year. Bracken was responding to a priority call on his motorcycle with lights and siren on when the accident occurred. Also a veteran of almost three years on the force, Bracken won two Commendation Awards.

I know my colleagues will join me in saluting the memory of these two brave officers, Casper J. Buonocore, Jr. and John J. Bracken.

#### TRIBUTE TO FORMER ALABAMA GOVERNOR GEORGE C. WALLACE

#### HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the memory of one of America's political legends and one of my home State's greatest sons, George Corley Wallace.

The 79-year-old former four-term Alabama Governor and Presidential candidate passed away on September 13 in Montgomery after a sudden illness. Governor Wallace was a native of Clio in my congressional district.

There are few names which engender more passion in American politics than that of George Wallace. While the former Governor is remembered by many for his strong and controversial views on a number of social issues during a very difficult period in our Nation's history, his greatest legacy—his role in laying the foundation for modern conservatism—is often overlooked.

As Alabama political columnist Bob Ingram points out, Wallace was quite fond of a 1980 New York Times editorial stating that Ronald Reagan "sailed into the White House on the tide that George Wallace discovered."

The famous "Reagan Democrat" phenomenon was a likely result of the growing conservative political culture which George Wallace expertly marshalled during his bids for the White House more than a decade earlier. Many of George Wallace's stands on State's rights and less government helped to pave the way for the eventual shift of southern Democrats to the modern Republican party.

As a newspaper reporter and later as a publisher in Alabama at the time of Wallace's tenure as Governor, I reported some of the history that he helped create. While, I didn't always agree with the Governor, I never lost respect for his remarkable political skills.

His brave recuperation from an assassination attempt and his remarkable reconciliation with his former political rivals of the Civil Rights era certainly galvanized George Wallace's role in history as one of America's most adept politicians.

The legacy of George Wallace's popular conservatism is very much alive today. I am glad that he was able to see his common-sense government ideals rise to the top of the national agenda even though fate did not allow the skilled political boxer from Barbour County, AL, to fight the last round.

#### IN HONOR OF THE UNITED WAY'S CONGRESSWOMAN MARY T. NORTON MEMORIAL AWARD WINNERS

#### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sister Alice McCoy, Margaret Murtha and Maria Nolan for winning the United Way's Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award.

The award, which was initiated by the United Way of Hudson County in 1990, recognizes those who exhibit a deep commitment to